

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 09584 101513Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /070 W
----- 012646

R 101418Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7163

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

EUCOM

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9584

BRUSSELS FOR AMBASSADOR MACOMBER

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S STATEMENT TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1. PRESIDENT KORUTURK, PRESIDING OVER OPEN SESSION OF COUNCIL OF MINSTERS DECEMBER 9, MADE SPEECH IN WHICH HE CALLED ON PARLIAMENT EITHER TO FORM A GOVERNMENT OR TO DECIDE TO HOLD ELECTIONS. OTHER SIGNIFICANT POINTS:

A. KORUTURK RECOUNTED THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE DESIGNATION OF IRMAK AS PRIMIN, MENTIONING ESPECIALLY THE NOVEMBER 11 MEETING WITH PARTY LEADERS AND HOW HE HAD RELIED ON THEIR "EXPLICIT AND TACIT PLEDGES" TO EITHER PARTICIPATE IN OR SUPPORT AN IRMAK GOVERNMENT. HE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY HAD FAILED TO LIVE UP TO THEIR PROMISES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 09584 101513Z

B. THE IRMAK GOVERNMENT, EVEN WITHOUT A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, WAS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE RESIGNED ECEVIT GOVERNMENT (AS IT WAS JUST PRIOR TO ITS RESIGNATION), KORUTURK DECLARED, SINCE IT WAS "MORE COHERENT AND CONSTRUCTIVE" AND WOULD CONTINUE WORKING UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT COULD BE FORMED. HE EMPHASIZED THAT NO ONE "AT HOME OR ABROAD" SHOULD ERRONEOUSLY ASSUME THAT TURKEY WAS NOT STRONG.

C. BECAUSE IT IS THE PRESIDENT WHO REPRESENTS THE CONTINUITY OF THE STATE AND SERVES AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT BE LEFT AS A "SILENT OBSERVER" DURING PERIODS WHEN THERE IS A STALEMATE OVER FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT. ACCORDINGLY, KORUTURK CALLED FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION TO

STRENGTHEN PRESIDENTIAL POWERS.

2. COMMENT: PRESIDENT KORUTURK, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SELDOM USED PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION, PRESIDED OVER THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND INVITED THE PRESS, THUS ASSURING WIDE PUBLICITY FOR WHAT HE HAD TO SAY. HIS REMARKS APPARENTLY WERE AIMED AT PUTTING MORE PUBLIC PRESSURE ON PARTIES TO RESOLVE THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS; EQUALLY, WITH AN EYE ON DRUSSELS, HE PUT HIS WEIGHT BEHIND THE MESSAGE THAT THE IRMAK GOVERNMENT IS NOT A CRIPPLE. HIS CALL FOR STRENGTHENING PRESIDENTIAL POWERS IS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE FIRST SUCH APPEAL BY A TURKISH PRESIDENT. IT PROBABLY REFLECTS MORE KORUTURK'S FRUSTRATION WITH TURKISH POLITICAL SYSTEM THAN ANY PERSONAL AMBITIONS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HIS PROPOSAL COULD BE CONSIDERED AS YET ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE REMEDY (ALONG WITH EARLY ELECTIONS AND CHANGES IN THE ELECTION LAW) FOR CURING TURKEY'S CURRENT GOVERNMENT PROBLEMS.

BERGUS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, SPEECHES, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA09584
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740358-0289
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741248/aaaabpdr.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S STATEMENT TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
TAGS: PINT, TU, (KORUTURK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005